

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**September 22, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, David Dever, Joan McGettigan  
Easton: Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson  
Greenwich: Craig Jones, ~~Barbara Heins, Horst Tebbe, Don Conway, Michael Reid~~  
New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak, Bob Doran~~, Roman Cebulski  
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, Mark Minnock, ~~Andy Garfunkel, Trevor Kline~~  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: ~~Bob Lion~~, Eric Morson, ~~Alec Logman~~  
Weston: ~~Don Saltzman, Gabe Tully~~  
Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow~~, Natalie Carrignan  
Wilton: ~~Gary Battaglia~~, Jeffrey Boehme, ~~Fran Kompar~~  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice: Esme Lombard  
Ed Committee: David Pisani (Sacred Heart); Julie Casper Roth (NCC)  
Guests: Larry Manzi (Norwalk);

Excused: Stan Witkow (Westport); Bob Doran, Paul Sedlak (New Canaan); Fran Kompar (Wilton)

Hal called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:04pm with nine towns represented.

1. **Minutes** of the May 25 meeting was approved as amended.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
  - 2021 I-Net Reports / Programming Logs: No new grants awarded without report. Reports have not been submitted by Greenwich, Norwalk, Weston Education
4. **Return of Weston Equipment** – Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz contacted Hal over the summer to advise that Weston is discontinuing the operation of its G channel due to the loss of the personnel involved in the operation of the channel. Doug and Andy volunteered to handle the pickup of Weston's equipment and redistribution to other Area 9 access entities. Doug reported that the equipment has been dismantled and transported to the Easton library and will shortly be catalogued with descriptions and photos to be sent to A9CC reps so that they can determine what they would be interested in. The Council will mediate on items of interest to multiple parties. Easton is receiving the Leightronics server and matrix mixer as payback for its efforts in administering this project
5. **2022 Round 1 grant program:** Round 1 grants totaling \$132,000. Unused Round 1 funds + UVerse funds will be used for round 2 grants. \$66,000 each to E & G, 10 grants of \$6,600 on the Government side, Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee, A maximum of \$2,500 for each grant can be allocated to operations, Unused Round 1 funds retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants. This closes out Round 1 grants.

The following grant applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Norwalk G	\$5,306.86	0	Approved
Region 9 E	\$9,275.86	0	Approved
*CSH E	\$8,513.85	0	Approved
Darien E	\$9,999.00	0	Approved
New Canaan E	\$9,909.58	0	Approved

\*There was extensive discussion about getting CSH programming on the access channels. Esme will look into ways of uploading the programming to the Altice headend for delivery to the channel(s) and program sharing will be emphasized in Ed Committee and A9CC Council meetings.

Some education members had requested that Round 1 deadlines be moved from September to October due to the difficulty for some to submit applications that early in the school year. However, it was pointed out that by doing so would complicate the effort to dispatch all funding in the calendar year. Also, since unused Round 1 education funds rollover into education Round 2 funds and the Ed committee can set award amounts and recipients at their discretion, in essence the deadline for awarding these funds is flexible.

Delinquent Grant Reports

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
New Canaan G	\$1,500.00	12/17/2021	6/15/2022	Submitted but must redo
New Canaan G	\$2,200.00	12/17/2021	6/15/2022	"
New Canaan G	\$4,098.00	6/6/2022	8/5/2022	"
Westport E	\$9,812.00	5/27/2022	7/26/2022	Extended to next meeting
Easton G	\$2,500.00	2/22/2022	8/21/2022	Extended to next meeting
Easton G	\$4,100.00	5/27/2022	7/26/2022	Extended to next meeting
Westport G	\$6,179.15	6/13/2022	8/12/2022	Extended to next meeting
Redding G	\$4,100.00	6/3/2022	8/2/2022	Extended to next meeting

6. **Round 2 grant program** – Funds Available for Round 2 Education and Government grants.

	Edu	Govt
Round 2 U-verse Allocation	\$4,436.83	\$4,436.83
Round 1 unused funds	\$8,677.21	\$26,100.87
Returned funds	\$331.90	\$0.00
Available for Round 2	\$13,445.94	\$30,537.70
Normalized Available	\$13,500.00	\$30,600.00

\$13,500 to E, \$30,600 to G; 9 grants of \$3,400 on the Government side; Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; A maximum of \$2,000 for each grant could be allocated to operations; The deadline for submitting grants from the towns & schools is 12/7/2022. If any towns in addition to Weston state that they will not be submitting Round 2 grant requests, the additional allocations can increase the G maximum grant allotments, if time allows.

**Access Channel Programming Idea:** Jim made a presentation on producing quality program on the access channels. He presented the following points for discussion:

- *It's all about PROGRAMING, not tech*
- *You on the air 24 hours a day*
- *Community Calendar is not programming*
- *When do people watch? How do you know? Do you survey? Without data how do you know?*
- *Program Guide? On air or by email / website?*
- *Links to agenda / Vimeo*
- *Social media promos of live shoots, new Vimeo adds*
- *Where do you find programming?*
- *Your own coverage of government meeting*
- *Community events, Regional events (let's share!)*
- *"Inside Town Hall", "Community Matters"*
- *Local resources: library, men's assoc, NGOs (Westport Museum is excellent)*
- *National resources: NASA, National Gallery of Art, SETI etc*
- *PSAs, bumpers, promos.*
- *Program rotation:*
- *Not tied to clock... a constant stream 24 x 7*
- *Different rotation each day: no repeats by daypart*
- *Vimeo / YouTube / Facebook: stream and on-demand*
- *Production:*
- *All Zoom meetings look the same*
- *Post production with lower thirds & dates, IDs*

The presentation prompted useful discussion on the topic of access channel programming and we will plan on having regular discussions going forward under the topic of *"Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions"*

## **7. Other Matters**

- Andy Anderson has moved from Easton to Bridgeport and will be resigning from A9CC due to residence requirements. Andy has been an active and valued member of A9CC for 15 years and will be missed, but will stay involved with the Easton channel in an advisory role. Doug pointed out that Andy has extensive experience in building access channel infrastructure and may be available as a contractor for towns needing work done on their studios.

Future meetings: 10/26/2022, 12/14/2022, 2/1/2023, 3/22/2023, 5/31/2023 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.